

"Walter is the quintessential public servant," says Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke. "He remains an important adviser in business and political activities in this community. I just met with him as recently as this week to talk about downtown development."

It all started long before he was appointed to the "Jewish slot" on the city school board in 1948. It started July 25, 1908, in the front room, second floor of 1621 Bolton St. That's where he was born. He graduated from Park School in 1925, then went on to Haverford College. There were 81 graduates in the class of '29. A dozen remain.

On his yearbook page, the editors wrote: "By simultaneously preserving his pride and refusing to take himself seriously, he has practically forced us to consider him seriously as one of the prides of the class."

Not much has changed in 70 years. In the mid-1950s, his calm approach made Baltimore the first school district south of the Mason-Dixon Line to respond to the Supreme Court's landmark ruling outlawing "separate but equal" education. Some one burned a cross on the lawn of his Windsor Hills home, but it didn't stop him.

During the 1960s Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro III sought his help.

"His calling card is integrity and, as I said before, he has no hidden agenda," says D'Alesandro. "My whole concept of Walter was that he was a cut above."

He does not have a "typical" day. It depends on where he is needed. Just the other day, he showed up for the Maryland Art Place's dedication of its miniature golf course at Rash Field. He called himself "Tiger Wouldn't."

"Me, who's opposed to all exercise," he says, of what turned into an awful day. He tripped and fell on the 17th hole. "I ripped my suit beyond repair. I went to get my car, it had a \$20 ticket on it."

He still drives his black Acura Legend, and walks when there is a purpose. Not too long ago he walked from his Harborview apartment to a dinner party on Federal Hill. The hosts were very concerned.

"You know, you shock people if you drive. You shock people if you walk," he says.

At 90, he goes where he wants, when he wants. He does acrobatics for fun, and surprises himself by still being able to recite the Keats he learned at Haverford.

"I've had a lucky life," he says, pale blue eyes shining behind his glasses. "It's not because of me. I've been lucky to be in places."

Now there are rumors that he's the odds-on favorite to be the next state school board president. He says he doesn't want the job. Yes, he has been involved with education for 50 years, but he doesn't consider himself an expert.

"I don't think it would be wise for them to pick me," he says, wondering aloud how it would look, a 90-year-old man.

So often in the past people have come to him, seeking his perspective, his gift of compromise. He has said "yes" probably more times than he can remember. His resume lists 78 committees, boards and foundations he once served.

"My wife, who used to chastise me for saying 'Yes,' said, 'It's your curiosity,'" he says. "The truth is, I'm a little bit of a sissy. I don't like to say 'No.' . . . That's not a strength, you know. That's a weakness."

[From the Washington Post, July 30, 1998]

SONDHEIM TO HEAD MARYLAND SCHOOL BOARD  
(By Ellen Nakashima)

At 90, Walter Sondheim Jr. protested that he was too old to head the influential board that sets education policy in Maryland. Just Friday he insisted, "You don't get wiser with age."

But other members of the Maryland Board of Education would not hear of it. Yesterday, they unanimously elected the self-deprecating Baltimorean—the godfather of the state's school reform efforts—as their new president.

A man who has urged friends to write him anonymously when they felt it was time for him to "hang up the spikes," Sondheim is now the oldest person in the country to lead a statewide education board.

"I'm very grateful to all of you," he told his colleagues yesterday. "It's a nice thing to do to an old man."

Although it's a part-time job with no pay, heading the state board requires an ability to smooth out the ripples created by 12 strong personalities. In the past months, board members have clashed over such issues as whether to require teachers-in-training to take reading courses and how to institute new high school exams for graduation. And Sondheim, a consensus-maker par excellence, was the best candidate to keep the board on a fast track to education reform, board members said. He replaces Rose LaPlaca, whose term has expired.

"This is a man who's a cut above everyone," said State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick, herself a recognized leader in school reform. "Very few people have intelligence coupled with integrity. He is as intellectually sharp as someone half his age. Most people have lost more gray matter in their thirties than he has in his lifetime."

Sondheim has a wry sense of humor that is almost always directed at himself. (A Navy lieutenant in World War II, he never served overseas—"It could possibly be why we won the war." What did he do in the Navy? "I didn't interfere.")

He was appointed president of the Baltimore City school board in 1954 on the same day the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* desegregation decision. He has headed the state's Higher Education Commission. And in 1987, then-Gov. William Donald Schaefer tapped him to head to Governor's Commission on School Performance, which in 1989 released what has come to be known as the Sondheim Report—or the blueprint for school reform in Maryland.

They are all posts he says he did not seek. "I've just lived a long time," he said, shrugging off his achievements. "You will find that the older you get, the nicer people are to you."

Sondheim, born and bred in Baltimore, serves on 24 boards and foundations and works full time as a consultant to the Greater Baltimore Committee, a booster group he once headed. He chaired Charles Center-Inner Harbor Management, which sparked the revival of downtown Baltimore. Today, he works on the 15th floor of the Legg Mason Tower, a few blocks from the state board of office. His dress is impeccable, from button-down shirt to wingtip shoes.

"I don't know anything about his genes, except his remarkable physical ability," said Schaefer, 76, who declares himself "just a child beside Walter." Said Schaefer: "He's got the stamina of a man 55 years old. He's amazing. He can outwork guys in their fifties, sixties." And he doesn't exercise.

"Oh, God forbid!" Sondheim exclaimed. "I'm opposed to it. I don't believe in exercise. It's partly because I've never done any form of athletics very well. I'm not an athletic type. I get kidded about that a lot."

He stood for two hours Tuesday night at a birthday party in his honor despite having fallen and hurt his leg. About 100 of his closest friends served him up a three-foot-long cake with 15-inch-high candles. According to Schaefer, he blew them out with one puff and declared: "No presents. No speeches. No exceptions."

Sondheim, whose wife, Janet, died six years ago and who has two children and two grandchildren, gets asked all the time when he'll retire.

"I have no idea," he said. "Somebody may tell me it's time to do it. I keep a watchful eye out for being past my time. And I have some friends I expect to tell me when my time has come."

But Schaefer believes Sondheim will never hang up his spikes. "He'd be bored to death," Schaefer said. "He couldn't retire. He just couldn't. Besides, nobody wants him to."

Sondheim's agenda for the coming year is simple.

"I think what I hope to do in the next year," he said, "is wake up every morning."●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE SCHUYLKILL TRAINING & TECHNOLOGY CENTER PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Schuylkill Training & Technology Center on celebrating its 30th year of graduates in their Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Program.

In June, the program marked 30 years of graduations with its 62nd daytime class and ninth part-time evening class commencement. Since its start, the program's class size has increased from 33 graduates in 1968 to 55 graduates this year. To mark the 30th anniversary of the program the Schuylkill Training & Technology Center will hold a celebration of the program and the success of its graduates on October 18.

Over the past 30 years, acceptance of LPNs by other health-care professionals has increased dramatically. Today students are enrolling in the LPN Program because of multiple job opportunities, and I am proud to say that a large percentage of all graduates find job opportunities in Pennsylvania.

Mr. President, I commend the Schuylkill Training & Technology Center for its excellence in job training, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their 30th year of graduates.●

#### MEMORIAL FOR FRANK HORAN OF ALBUQUERQUE, NM

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the memory of one of the finest public servants ever to have served the citizens of New Mexico, Mr. Frank Horan. Mr. Horan, who served a quarter of a century as the city attorney of Albuquerque, passed away last Saturday, October 3, 1998. His loss will be deeply felt by countless friends and family—two sons, a daughter, and seven grandchildren—who will always remember his dedication to public service, his deep affection for his community, his abiding love for his family, and his legendary sense of humor.

Frank Horan was in a sense one of the founding fathers of modern Albuquerque, moving to the city during the early 1940s, and serving as city attorney during the first years of the city's

mayor-council form of government. He played a key role in designing the city's governmental structure and establishing its relationship to other jurisdictions within the state. His early professional investment in city government serves as a foundation of today's Albuquerque, a model of good government under the current leadership of Mayor Jim Baca, a longtime schoolmate of Mr. Horan's son, Tom. Tom Horan, following in his father's footsteps, currently practices law in Albuquerque and works with the state legislature.

Following his years in service to the citizens of Albuquerque, Frank Horan served in the House of Representatives in the State of New Mexico from which he retired in 1982. His dedication to public service, however, did not stop when he retired. In recent years, he devoted his life to volunteer causes, including Meals on Wheels and Encino House, a retirement center located in Albuquerque. Tom Horan reports that his father pursued those activities because, in Frank Horan's words, he was "building his resume." I am certain that Frank's "resume" will abide favorably in the hereafter. I also know that his spirit and contributions will live on among the citizens of Albuquerque and New Mexico. The people of New Mexico will miss him very much. And so will I. Thank you Mr. President. ●

#### CFA 6TH ANNUAL DINNER

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a very important organization in the state of Michigan. The Chaldean Federation of America (CFA) is an umbrella association of Chaldean Civic Organizations in Metropolitan Detroit. The CFA has been in existence since 1980 and represents more than 100,000 Chaldean-Americans. Its primary goal is to assist Chaldean youth in their pursuit of academic success. It is also involved in other community programs such as race relations, youth and senior citizen programs, and social services.

The CFA will be celebrating its 6th Annual Dinner Awards Banquet on Tuesday, October 27, 1998. Dr. Jacob Mansour, CFA Chairman, and co-chairs Rosemary Bannon and Kays Zair have a wonderful evening planned. It will undoubtedly be a great success.

I extend my congratulations and best wishes to all of this year's award recipients, and everyone who has contributed to making this organization so strong. I congratulate my good friends at the CFA on their sincere dedication to improving the lives of those around them and wish them many more years of success. ●

#### CALLING FOR CONCERTED ACTION BY NATO TO STOP ONGOING ATROCITIES IN KOSOVO

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the tragedy that continues to unfold in the Province of

Kosovo. I cannot stress to my colleagues enough how serious I believe the Kosovo situation has become. What we are witnessing in Kosovo now is potentially the most dangerous conflict in the Balkans since 1991. For more than seven months, President Milosevic and his Serb police forces have been engaged in an offensive against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo that can only be characterized as "ethnic cleansing".

The Congress must put aside election year politics and speak with one voice in support of the United States utilizing all necessary means to put an end to these atrocities that threaten a wider war in the Balkans. For that reason, I hope that the Republican leadership will allow a vote in the Senate to signal our strong support for the use of air power against Serbian targets in the coming days.

Clearly no one on the other side of the aisle can assert that the new escalation of fighting in Kosovo has not been very destabilizing to the region. The evidence clearly indicates that it has—over a quarter of a million of Kosovans have been displaced, many of whom have fled beyond the borders of Kosovo and Serbia to Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Similarly the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has sought refuge and material support from Albanian populations in other countries—such actions could draw others into an ever widening civil conflict.

But it is not only the conflict's disastrous potential that cries out for action. The status quo in Kosovo is a human catastrophe. According to some estimates, already more than 1,000 people have been killed since the end of February, when Serbian paramilitary police began their crackdown on villages in Kosovo believed to be strongholds of the Kosovo Liberation Army. Many more have been driven from their homes.

Fearful women and children are hiding from the Serb police and other Serb armed forces in the hills around Kosovo without adequate food, water, or shelter. Nightly temperatures are already falling near freezing at night and it is clear that with the advent of winter their fate is doomed. Mr. President, we cannot let this humanitarian and human rights catastrophe continue.

The deep concern about the current crisis is a shared one—it is bipartisan. Many of the members of this body have recently had an opportunity to hear from a former colleague and Majority Leader Senator Bob Dole who at the behest of President Clinton traveled to Kosovo and Belgrade to make a first hand assessment of the situation. He was accompanied on that visit by Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, John Shattuck.

Senator Dole and Assistant Secretary Shattuck returned to Washing-

ton with a shared assessment of what has been transpiring in Kosovo in recent weeks.

They have both spoken of atrocities being perpetrated against the civilian population—ninety percent of whom are ethnic Albanians. Senator Dole again confirmed what many of us in this body have been saying over the last seven months, namely that "Milosevic is again on the warpath. . . and, there should be no doubt that Serbia is engaged in major, systematic attacks on the people and territory of Kosovo."

The United States has been assertive in condemning Serbian aggression. The Clinton administration has spoken out repeatedly against Serb human rights abuses in Kosovo, and has stated that it will not let Serbs follow through with their ethnic cleansing. The Congress too has felt it extremely important to go on record to denounce Yugoslav President Milosevic and the Serbian military and security forces under his direction. We in the Senate also called upon the international community to act forcefully if Serbian armed aggression continued. Sadly Serbian aggression has continued. Innocent Kosovans have lost mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles.

There is a time for words and a time for force. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke has been trying as I speak to convince Milosevic to alter course. The latest information indicates that these efforts are unlikely to produce positive results. To my mind, that means that the time for words is over. Our entreaties to Milosevic to do the right thing have fallen on deaf ears. Milosevic and his Serbian forces have been mocking the international community by declaring one thing and doing another.

The time has come for the international community to confront the obvious contradictions between the words and deeds of Milosevic and the Serbian security forces under his command—saying on the one hand that a unilateral cease fire has been established and continuing on the other hand with his attacks on ethnic Albanian villages. The Serbian September 26, cease-fire declaration was pure theater. Frankly so was last weekend's "withdrawal" of Serbian forces. At the very moment that Serbian Prime Minister Mirko Marjanovic publicly declared that the seven-month offensive against the militant separatists was over, fighting continued in southern Kosovo.

Let us not repeat the mistakes of the past and give Milosevic another chance to mislead the international community. Russian objections to the use of force by NATO should carry no weight at this juncture. NATO has given Milosevic its final ultimatum—to comply immediately with all UN and NATO demands to end the crackdown in Kosovo, withdraw government forces and open meaningful political negotiations with the ethnic Albanians.